

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use, comprising:

an Internet communication module; and

a message formatter;

wherein said Internet communication module is adapted to cause said message formatter to send a personalized notification message recorded by a remote telephone user to an Internet interface across said telephone line ~~user~~ via TCP/IP protocol ~~over said Internet~~ upon request from a said remote telephone user while a said same telephone line is in use by ~~called-but-busy party is connected to~~ said Internet interface.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use according to claim 1, wherein:

said remote telephone user is a central office.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use according to claim 1, wherein:

said remote telephone user ~~is a party trying~~ is attempting to establish a telephone call with said called-but-busy party.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use according to claim 1, further comprising:

a call related information receiver;

wherein call related information regarding a calling party is included with said notification message.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use according to claim 1, wherein:

said call related information receiver is a Caller ID receiver.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use according to claim 1, further comprising:

said notification message is a textual message.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use according to claim 6, wherein:

said textual message is an e-mail message.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use according to claim 1, further comprising:

said notification message includes an audibly playable data file.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use according to claim 1, wherein:

said audibly playable data file automatically plays when received on a computer terminal ~~of said Internet user~~ connected to said Internet interface.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use according to claim 1, further comprising:

a data signal detector adapted to detect likely Internet usage of said same telephone line ~~said called-but-busy party~~.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while ~~an Internet user is accessing the Internet over~~ the same telephone line is in use according to claim 10, wherein:

said notification message includes information regarding likely Internet usage of said same telephone line ~~said called-but-busy party~~.

12. (currently amended) A method for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~, comprising:

uniquely identifying a called-but-busy party via a telephone call; and
notifying an Internet interface user through a personalized notification message transmitted over said same telephone line using TCP/IP protocol ~~over said Internet~~ while said called-but-busy party is busy due connected to said Internet interface being active on said same telephone line, said personalized notification message being recorded by ~~said a~~ calling party and indicating that said calling party is requesting access to said called-but-busy party over said same telephone line.

13. (currently amended) The method for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~ according to claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a notification request from said calling party.

14. (currently amended) The method for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~ according to claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a notification request from a central office.

15. (currently amended) The method for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~ according to claim 12, further comprising:

determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet interface of said called-but-busy party is busy using said same telephone line ~~connected with said Internet~~.

16. (currently amended) The method for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~ according to claim 12, wherein:

said notification is an e-mail message.

17. (currently amended) The method for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~ according to claim 12, wherein:

said notification is an audibly playable message.

18. (currently amended) A method for notifying an Internet ~~user~~ interface connected to of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party connected to the same telephone line, comprising:

determining at a central office a likelihood that a said Internet interface is using said same telephone line ~~called-but-busy party is connected with said Internet~~;

notifying said an attempted calling party ~~to said called-but-busy party~~ of said likelihood ~~from~~ determined by said central office; and

giving said calling party an opportunity to send said Internet interface ~~user~~ a personalized message via TCP/IP protocol over said same telephone line, said personalized message being Internet recorded by said calling party while said Internet interface is using said same telephone line ~~called-but-busy party is connected to said Internet~~.

19. (currently amended) Apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over ~~an Internet user of~~ a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~, comprising:

means for uniquely identifying an Internet interface used by a called-but-busy party ~~an Internet user~~ via a telephone call; and

means for notifying said uniquely identified Internet interface ~~user~~ over said same telephone line via TCP/IP protocol ~~over said Internet~~ that said calling party telephone is requesting access to said called-but-busy party over said same telephone line through a personalized message recorded by said calling party while said same telephone line is in use by said Internet interface ~~called-but-busy party is connected to said Internet~~.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~ according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for receiving a notification request from said calling party.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~ according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for receiving a notification request from a central office.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~ according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet interface of said called-but-busy party is busy using said same telephone line connected with said Internet.

23. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~ according to claim 19, wherein:

said notification is an e-mail message.

24. (currently amended) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over an Internet user of a telephone line while the same telephone line is in use by an Internet interface ~~that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party~~ according to claim 19, wherein:

said notification is an audibly playable message.

25. (currently amended) Apparatus for notifying an Internet interface connected to user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with a called-but-busy party connected to the same telephone line, comprising:

means for determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet interface is busy using said same telephone line ~~called-but-busy party is connected with said Internet;~~ and

means for notifying with a personalized message recorded by said calling party via TCP/IP protocol over said Internet busy telephone line, of said calling party's attempt to connect with ~~an attempted calling party to said Internet user of said likelihood to allow said calling party an opportunity to give said Internet user a personalized message recorded by said calling party while said called-but-busy party is connected to said Internet.~~

26. (previously presented) Apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line, comprising:

a specially designated, predetermined telephone number center adapted to receive a call from a caller with a desire to send a notification message to a called-but-busy party accessing said Internet; and

a message formatter;

wherein said specially designated, predetermined telephone number center is adapted to cause said message formatter to send a notification message to said called-but-busy party upon request from a remote telephone user.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 26, wherein:

said remote telephone user is a party trying to establish a telephone call with said called-but-busy party.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 26, further comprising:

a call related information receiver;

wherein call related information regarding a calling party is included with said notification message.

29. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 28, wherein:

said call related information receiver is a Caller ID receiver.

30. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 26, further comprising:

said notification message is a textual message.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 30, wherein:

said textual message is an e-mail message.

32. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 26, further comprising:

said notification message includes an audibly playable data file.

33. (previously presented) A method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user, comprising:

uniquely identifying an Internet user via a telephone call; and
notifying said Internet user through a specially designated, predetermined telephone number center, adapted to receive a call from said calling party with a desire to send a notification message to said Internet user, that said calling party is requesting access to said Internet user over said telephone line.

34. (previously presented) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 33, further comprising:

receiving a notification request from said calling party.

35. (previously presented) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 33, further comprising:

receiving a notification request from a central office.

36. (previously presented) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 33, further comprising:

determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet user is connected with said Internet.

37. (previously presented) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 33, wherein:

said notification is an e-mail message.

38. (previously presented) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 33, wherein:

said notification is an audibly playable message.

39. (previously presented) Apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user, comprising:

means for uniquely identifying an Internet user via a telephone call;

and

means for notifying said uniquely identified user that said calling party is requesting access to said Internet user over said telephone line through though a specially designated, predetermined telephone number center adapted to receive a call from said calling party with a desire to send a notification message to said Internet user.

40. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 39, further comprising:

means for receiving a notification request from said calling party.

41. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 39, further comprising:

means for receiving a notification request from a central office.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 39, further comprising:

means for determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet user is connected with said Internet.

43. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 39, wherein:

said notification is an e-mail message.

44. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 39, wherein:

said notification is an audibly playable message.